

June 2001

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Lead Update

Lowering the threshold for lead poisoning, more children will be offered environmental inspections and case management

Following CDC recommendations issued in 1997, the RI Lead Program will offer environmental inspection and case management to children with **persistent levels of lead poisoning**, starting in July 2001. Currently, these services are offered only to children who are "significantly lead poisoned" which is defined as those children under six years of age with a confirmed lead level of at least 20 micrograms per deciliter of blood.

To be considered with "**persistent levels of lead poisoning**" a RI child under six years of age must have two (venipuncture and/or capillary) tests greater than or equal to 15 micrograms per deciliter of blood, where the two tests are at least ninety days apart, and the interval between testing does not exceed 365 days.

The referral process for persistent cases will be the same used for significantly lead poisoned children. Daily reports are computer generated and health care providers are notified in writing of the referral being made. For referrals made due to **persistent** levels of lead poisoning, however, the letter will include the results of the two lead tests involved.

Meanwhile, first time confirmed lead levels between 15 and 19 ug/dL will continue to be referred to the Family Outreach Program. Please note that these referrals involve ONE lead test only, and families with children in this category are offered a home based lead education visit and cleaning supplies (TSP and duct tape). Conversely, the "**persistent**" referrals involve TWO lead tests and are offered full environmental inspection and case management services (including legal enforcement on non compliant landlords).

For further questions about this expansion of case management and environmental inspections, please contact the HEALTH's Lead Case Manager, Concetta Goncalves, at 222-4634, concettag@doh.state.ri.us, or Al Cabral, at 222-7795, ajc@doh.state.ri.us in the Environmental Unit.

www.healthri.org

1-800-942-7434

MAKE HEALTH PART OF YOUR FAMILY

Announcement of Workshop to Review Recent Changes to the Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention

The RI Department of Health (HEALTH) will be conducting a workshop in the Department of Health Auditorium from 2-4 PM on Wednesday 27 June 2001. This workshop will review both the recently filed amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention [R23-24.6-PB] which became effective on 30 May 2001 and the new/revised forms that will be utilized. Pre-registration for the workshop is NOT required.

Some of the changes to be reviewed will include:

- ♦ Significant decreases in the amount of lead that will be allowed for hazard determination and clearance [i.e., Lead-Safe levels].
- ♦ Establishing a two-tiered system for addressing lead hazards in residential housing. The existing regulatory requirements continue to apply for dwellings of lead poisoned children and certain Federally funded projects which mandate trained and licensed Lead Hazard Reduction contractors. In contrast, owners of property who have not been cited by HEALTH for a significantly lead-poisoned child will be able to employ a new class of trained renovators/remodelers. It is believed that this model will be used by property owners to proactively control lead hazards. This will be a major step in prevention of childhood lead poisoning.
- ♦ Permitting certified Environmental Lead Inspector Technicians to conduct dust sampling required for HUD compliance.
- ♦ Additional notification requirements prior to starting Lead Hazard Reduction activities.

Please call (401) 222-1417 for any questions concerning this workshop.

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### **2001 Lead Poisoning Prevention Month Achievements**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, HEALTH held a celebration to recognize its partners in the prevention of lead poisoning. This event was the closing of a month long of statewide health education and outreach activities realized in partnership with 66 diverse community-based organizations, including schools, daycare, mental health services, community health centers, libraries, WIC agencies, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, hospitals, local universities and colleges, neighborhood groups, private medical providers, HMO's and other state agencies. The activities included:

- Health fairs / Information table (17)
- Parents and staff workshops (10)
- Video presentation for children and general public (14)
- Children activities: Coloring/Drawing contest (10) Story telling (5)
- Media: Radio appearances (2) Newsletters (3)
- Outreach to pediatricians (109)
- Mailings (5)
- Distribution of Educational brochures (3)
- Informational meetings (15)

Also integrated in this initiative was the participation in the Keep It Clean Campaign, a New England regional effort, in partnership with 21 hardware stores in Rhode Island.

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